

Statement of Ranking Member Kenny Marchant
Subcommittee on the Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia
March 8, 2007
Hearing on “Status of Federal Personnel Reform”

Thank you for convening this hearing today, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to working with you over the coming years on many different issues facing the federal workforce, the Postal Service, and the District of Columbia.

Today’s hearing will examine efforts in recent years to reform the decades-old civil service systems at a handful of federal agencies, specifically the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration, and the Government Accountability Office. Congress authorized all four of these agencies to overhaul their personnel systems in recent years. Today’s hearing will give us an opportunity to evaluate the progress that has been made to date.

In addition, Congress has also authorized reforms to the personnel systems at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Aviation Administration over the past decade. The efforts at these agencies will presumably be the focus of future hearings.

Mr. Chairman, in conducting your first oversight hearing today, I applaud you for gathering a panel of experts that will provide the Subcommittee with an analytical, dispassionate perspective on the efforts to date to reform the existing civil service system and to make recommendations as to where we might be able to go from here. I believe that this panel will help lay the foundation for subsequent hearings on the reform efforts at individual agencies.

As a newly appointed Ranking Member to this Subcommittee, I look forward to learning from the witnesses before us today and to becoming better educated on the issues facing the federal workforce in the 21st century.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.